

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

COUNTRY Foreign Radio Transmitters

SUBJECT: Foreign Radio Comment on American
Civil Rights

PLACE
ACQUIRED

25X1

DATE
ACQUIRED

25X1

DATE DISTR. 20 August 1947

NO. OF PAGES 6

NO. OF ENCLS.
LISTED BELOW

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVEALATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW, WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN THE STATE, WHEN OF CENTRAL IMPORTANCE.

25X1

25X1

S U M M A R Y

25X1

As noted in the previous report on foreign radio comment on American civil rights, the bulk of comment stems from the Soviet radio. During the period 16 June - 30 July available monitored foreign broadcasts yielded pertinent items from only three other transmitters--Tirana, Warsaw, and the USSR-controlled Berlin radio; they are all unfavorable in content or tone.

With reference to the previous report, there is nothing currently new in the treatment of U.S. civil rights except for a Soviet commentary warning Persian-speaking listeners that the Near and Middle East may soon "feel the impact of American race discrimination" with the implementation of the "Truman Doctrine."

EXCERPTS

I. MORE OR LESS ACCURATE DESCRIPTIONS OF CIVIL RIGHTS LIMITATIONS WITH ADVERSE COMMENTS:

Details of the savage massacre of Negroes in Georgia."

"New York, July 13--AP quotes a message from its correspondent from Brunswick, Georgia, giving details of the savage massacre of Negroes in Georgia. Worthy, the governor of the prison, ordered a group of Negro prisoners to line up in the prison yard. Worthy who was heavily drunk declared then that he intended to kill the Negro, Bell, and ordered Bell to step forward. Bell refused to leave the ranks, whereupon Worthy fired a shot and wounded Bell. Worthy then ordered three wardens to fire at the prisoners.

"AP" says that five prisoners were killed on the spot, two died later, and six more were wounded.

"A UP report says that the director of the Georgia branch of the NAACP, Weldon, told press correspondents that the assassination of Negroes in Brunswick was

[illegible]

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

a 'premeditated massacre.' He had appealed to the department of the Attorney General and asked it to investigate this case." (MOSCOW, TASS, SOVIET HOME SERVICE, IN RUSSIAN AT DICTATION SPEED FOR THE PROVINCIAL PRESS, 13 JULY 1947)

"Racial discrimination in the United States."

"New York, July 14.—It is known that electoral taxes in the United States practically deprive millions of poor Negroes and whites in many southern States of the right to vote and that many other Negroes cannot take part in the voting because of open terror. All this not being enough, reactionary elements do not stop using all sorts of juridical tricks so as to prevent all Negroes voting. The legislative assembly of South Carolina abolished last year all laws concerning preliminary elections.

"This maneuver aims at establishing a principle that a political party 'has no legal status' and thus can declare itself to be a 'private electoral club.' Official representatives of the Democratic Party declared themselves after that 'a private club' and decreed that no Negro could take part or vote in preliminary elections where party candidates are elected. Elmore, a Negro from South Carolina, appealed to the court demanding that the Democratic Party be prevented from depriving Negroes of the right to vote by means of the above trick.

"The press reports from Charleston that the judge of the local court passed a decision that at present the Democratic Party 'carries out public functions' and thus will not be able to become a 'private club' and limit its membership to the whites only. It is said that official representatives of the Democratic Party will appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States." (MOSCOW, TASS, SOVIET HOME SERVICE IN RUSSIAN AT DICTATION SPEED FOR THE PROVINCIAL PRESS, 15 JULY 1947)

"President Truman admits that millions of U.S. citizens cannot exercise their rights owing to discrimination. Speaking at the annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Negro Peoples, the President said that many Americans still suffered from the humiliation owing to insults, terrible fear, and intimidation, as well as physical abuse and mob violence. The Nation and the legal apparatus, the President stated, had not yet secured every citizen complete freedom from fear. The convention adopted a resolution demanding abolition of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. A number of participants in the convention demanded a law against lynching." (MOSCOW, IN ENGLISH, TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, 30 JUNE 1947)

(Commentary by Davidov, "Freedom of the Press")

"A few days ago the UIC subcommittee finished mapping an agenda for the coming U.N. conference on freedom of information and the press. ... "Remember the conduct of many U.S. correspondents during the San Francisco, Berlin, and other Allied Conferences. The report released by a special Chicago University Commission on Freedom of the Press states that the information of many U.S. correspondents about the San Francisco Conference so distorted the real state of affairs and so disorientated newspaper readers that when the latter learned that agreement had been reached on the U.N. Charter, they regarded this news with incredulous surprise.

"According to the report of the special Chicago University Commission, information in the United States is monopolized by three news agencies, the AP, UP, and INS. These agencies supply 95 percent of the 1,750 dailies in the United States with information. Eight large companies control 90 percent of all the motion picture output in the United States and 95 percent of the distribution, and the same may be said of magazine publication.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

25X1

- 3 -

"The report of the Chicago University Commission contains this amazing fact: (John Perry's) Western Newspaper Union supplies 10,000 small weeklies with canned editorials, while 3,000 weeklies receive from (Perry) four out of the eight pages comprising the issue in printed form, fully prepared and edited.

"Characterizing the press, the report says that the agencies of mass information are nothing but big business enterprises, and their owners big businessmen. U.S. monopolies, it states, permit only a negligible minority of the people to use the press, radio, motion pictures, and magazines as a vehicle for the expression of their opinion. It is not difficult to guess who comprises this negligible minority." (MOSCOW, SOVIET OVERSEAS SERVICE, IN ENGLISH TO NORTH AMERICA, 9 JUNE 1947)

II. DISTORTIONS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS SITUATION WITH VIRULENT, UNFAIR ATTACKS ON US:

"A BASHKENT article entitled 'American Imperialists are Endeavoring to Outlaw the American Communist Party' says: 'A few days ago the U.S. Supreme Court condemned Eugene Dennis, U.S. Communist Party Secretary General, for having disregarded decisions of the U.S. Congress. The charge on which the American judges issue their verdict was the non-appearance of Dennis before the Committee on Un-American Activities in April, 1947.

"Basis of the charge against him was supplied by the Committee on Un-American Activities. Despite its name, this committee and its members have for 18 years been opposing American workers' rights and have fought against the political and democratic ideals of progressive citizens, and first and foremost against Communists. It would also be worth mentioning that during the war this committee did not bother to investigate offenses which came to light and which had been perpetuated by its members.

"After emphasizing that American imperialists never hesitate to persecute all those who wish to achieve freedom and to secure their rights, BASHKENT states that there are official American organizations such as the League of ... which are systematically fighting against American Communists and which use the well-known slogan 'Away with the Communists Who Are a Threat to the World'—a slogan familiar to our ears since it was so often used by Hitler himself." (THIRANA, IN GREEK TO EUROPE, 1 JULY 1947)

"Today's ROBOTNIK discusses in the leading article President Truman's veto against the antilabor bill. The author of the article states that Truman's veto aimed only at gaining popularity for the President in connection with the coming elections because, as could be expected, the veto was overridden by a two-thirds majority.

"Not only Republicans but also Democrats voted against the veto, and the Democrats are Truman's party.

"The paper calls the whole incident an example of 'political hypocrisy.' This shows clearly once again that the American workers have no political representation of their own. This made it possible to pass a bill denying elementary rights to the U.S. working class."

THE BERLIN USSR-CONTROLLED RADIO (PRESS SERVICE IN GERMAN HELLSCHEIDT) on 23 July says that "A number of Hollywood firms dealing with the fight against Hitlerism have recently been prohibited in the U.S. Among them are 'Song of Russia,' and others which cast a critical light on social conditions such as 'The Little Foxes.' The mental attitude underlying the prohibition of these films in the U.S. now seems to extend to Germany...." (WARSAW, IN POLISH TO EUROPE, 21 JUNE 1947)

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

25X1

- 44 -

"Stone on the intensification of police control in the United States.

"New York, 16 June--Under the heading 'Is the District of Columbia turning into a Police State?' the paper FI published an article by Stone, its Washington correspondent:

"Civil servants forming the major part of the population of the District of Columbia begin to live cautiously, prefer to think twice as to whom they ask home, hesitate to buy any books or to attend a meeting since it might be described as something radical. The activities of the House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities, of the FBI, and of certain elements in the Department of the Attorney General, and also the prevalent mood in Congress and in the Washington TIMES HERALD, the largest paper in the D.C. are out to create an atmosphere in which justice and liberty cannot be ensured...." (MOSCOW, TASS, SOVIET HOME SERVICE, IN RUSSIAN AT DICTATION SPEED FOR THE PROVINCIAL PRESS, 16 JUNE 1947)

(Commentary by Anatole Osipov: "Race Discrimination in the United States")

"During the last 5 days in June the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held its 37th annual convention in Washington, D.C. It again focused the attention of the American public on such a vital problem for the United States as race discrimination.

"No less significant is the fact that since the Congress even the most errant apologists for so-called American democracy dare not claim, as they have been up to now, that all talk about race discrimination in America is propaganda of foreign origin.

"Now that President Truman has admitted before the monument to Abraham Lincoln that far from all Americans enjoy freedom from fear, that at the present time it is extremely necessary to improve democracy inside the country and straighten out matters at home--now that Truman has admitted all this, the well-known facts of antideмократic race discrimination, which are denied without proof by many American propagandists, have received special recognition. It is very indicative that the President spoke before the monument of Lincoln, whose name, along with those of other outstanding Americans like Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Franklin Roosevelt, is quite rightly linked in the minds of Americans with the finest traditions of their country, with the struggle against slavery and race discrimination.

"The incidents in the Swedish...of Stockholm and at Balmoie where white American Navy men beat up their Negro countrymen made the Swedish public indignant. Six public organizations of Sweden denounced this new manifestation of race discrimination as incompatible with democracy. With regard to these incidents, the Egyptian newspaper...remarked recently: 'There you have liberty, justice, and equality in the United States, which calls itself the defender of Roosevelt's four principles.'

"Americans are concerned about a drop in U.S. prestige between the two oceans, owing to the discrimination practiced against the Negro population. At the same time they cannot help seeing that the persecution of the Negroes is one manifestation of a reactionary domestic policy, one offensive of American capital against the working people of the United States.

Persian-speaking audiences are reminded by the SOVIET RADIO on 23 June of U.S. discrimination against the Southern Negro. In the brief final paragraph of one commentary, the Arab people are said to be "fearful of the fate which American imperialism may bring to the Near East."

A MOSCOW PERSIAN-LANGUAGE BROADCAST ON 24 JUNE also dwells on the "despicable scenes and intensified activities of race discrimination in the U.S." Moscow points out

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 5 -

that the "attention of the Arabic, Egyptian, Syrian and Iraqi press has been attracted and has expressed severe criticism." The broadcast then comments on the history of slave-trading and the standard examples of American mistreatment of the Negro. In conclusion Moscow reiterates the opinion that the "Arabian people are alarmed at the American penetration in the Near East..." (MOSCOW, TASS, SOVIET HOME SERVICE, IN RUSSIAN AT DICTATION SPEED FOR THE PROVINCIAL PRESS, 16 JUNE 1947)

(Topics of the Day, by Lisov)

"Next Monday an open meeting of the Committee on Un-American Activities will begin hearing the testimony of 30 prominent Hollywood actors, producers, and scenario writers. During the past few days reports of U.S. newspaper correspondents in Los Angeles have been drawing general attention to it. The fabrications which Chairman Thomas has handed to the press and the reports of the subcommittee investigating 'Communist penetration' into the film industry again underscore the reactionary essence of the Committee on Un-American Activities.

"On May 15 when the subcommittee finished its interrogations in Hollywood, Thomas informed a press conference that the committee had made surprising discoveries. One example is the story of Robert Taylor. According to the subcommittee, he asserted that Government officials had forced him to take part in 'Song of Russia,' in spite of his objections to the Communist propaganda and, moreover, had prevented him from joining the U.S. Navy until the shooting of this film was finished. A former official of the Office of War Information, Mr. Mollett, says this lie is too stupid to be refuted. Taylor's statement has made him the laughing stock of Los Angeles.

"Nonsense like this makes up the whole report of the committee, which asserts that during the war a number of motion pictures containing Communist propaganda were released under direct pressure from the White House. The Hollywood stage in the work of this House Committee shows that by spreading absurd slander about the USSR and planting distrust of the Soviet people, the committee is firmly determined to bring.... The whole activity...and existence is directed toward this.

"The authorities, both Federal and State, remain indifferent to the murder of Negroes, to the fact that what is actually taking place is a far cry from the principles proclaimed in the Constitution. Very few cases are known of a participant in the lynchings of a Negro being made to answer before the law.

"The notorious Committee on Un-American Activities is ready willing to persecute progressives like Paul Robeson, but takes no action against the reactionary Dilbo who worms his way into the Senate by deceptive means and has issued a fascist booklet demanding the deportation of all American Negroes to Africa. Today, as the progressive forces of the American people draw more closely together in the fight against the offensives of American capital, one of the battles is against race discrimination." (MOSCOW, SOVIET OVERSEAS SERVICE, IN ENGLISH, TWO NORTH AMERICA, 10 JUNE 1947)

("Commentary on Taft-Hartley Antilabor Law")

"The Taft-Hartley antilabor law has come into operation notwithstanding President Truman's veto. In effect, it does away with the Bill of Rights which the American people adopted in 1791 and which generations of Americans have regarded as a sacred traditional pride of the trans-Atlantic Republic. William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, says that the new law will cause a regular war in industry. Green adds that the A.F. of L. would immediately begin campaigns to have the law revoked. CIO leaders have also vigorously protested against the antilabor law.

"The U.S. Congress in which the Republicans have a majority has openly challenged 15 million organized workers. What is the reason for this? Those who advocate

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 6 -

the restriction of trade union rights in Congress and in the legislative bodies of the separate states, declare that antilabor legislation is, so to say, a reply to the post-war strikes, which are allegedly threatening the State system in America. There is no disputing it: 1946 has indeed beat the record in the history of the United States for the number of workers to take part in strikes. However, these strikes are substantially different in character than the wave of strikes which swept the country after the First World War." (MOSCOW, SOVIET OVERSEAS SERVICE, IN ENGLISH TO NORTH AMERICA, 26 JUNE 1947)

III. MISCELLANEOUS ADVERSE COMMENTS ON AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS:

"New York--The New York press reports a new case of Negro lynching in the United States.... One white woman near the small town of Prentiss, Mississippi said that an unknown Negro raped her. The Sheriff, together with deputies, went to...and arrested 9 Negroes nearby, although many hours had elapsed since...violence, and the 'guilty party' had ample time to flee. The white woman pointed to one of the arrested Negroes and the Sheriff gave orders to jail him. Later the Sheriff and several deputies brought the Negro to the scene of the alleged crime and shot him dead. This lynching, the Sheriff explained to press representatives, was due to the fact that the Negro...confessed his crime and 'attempted to escape.' (MOSCOW, TASS, SOVIET OVERSEAS SERVICE IN ENGLISH NORTH TO NORTH AMERICA, 3 AUGUST 1947)

"Persecution of progressive organizations and men in the United States."

"Washington, June 23--A campaign for the liquidation of progressive organizations and trade unions is now being waged in the United States with the help of legal means. Further, to Truman's recent decision on the dismissal of staff from Government departments, who are suspected of a 'disloyal attitude,' a representative of the State Department told the press yesterday that 10 States are putting into force measures against workers. The Governor of Michigan has signed an act providing for the liquidation of any 'group under foreign influence,' giving large discretionary powers to the Attorney General of his State. AP reports that religious and other organizations are protesting against this act because it gives the Attorney General too much power to discriminate." (MOSCOW, TASS, IN RUSSIAN AT DICTATION SPEED FOR THE PROVINCIAL PRESS, 23 JUNE 1947)

"The NEW YORK DAILY NEWS reports that the U.S. War Department has issued instructions to destroy all literature on the USSR and the Soviet Army which the War Department published in wartime. This applies to all pamphlets in which the USSR is described in a friendly spirit. One such pamphlet to be destroyed contains statements by Roosevelt and Wendell Willkie on the need for Soviet-U.S. collaboration in peacetime." (MOSCOW, IN ENGLISH TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, 23 JUNE 1947)

"Racial discrimination and lynching in the U.S. has been condemned by (a) Cuban organization which has called upon the United Nations to put an end to the disgraceful insults inflicted on the colored population of the United States." (In other broadcasts, Moscow reports that Havana's RNY published the foregoing statement.) (MOSCOW, IN ENGLISH TO NORTH AMERICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, 2 JULY 1947)

For information of the Department, the following is a list of the organizations mentioned in the above report.

RESTRICTED